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(71) Applicant
Alessandro Arrigoni
Via A Omodeo
1-20151 Milan
Italy

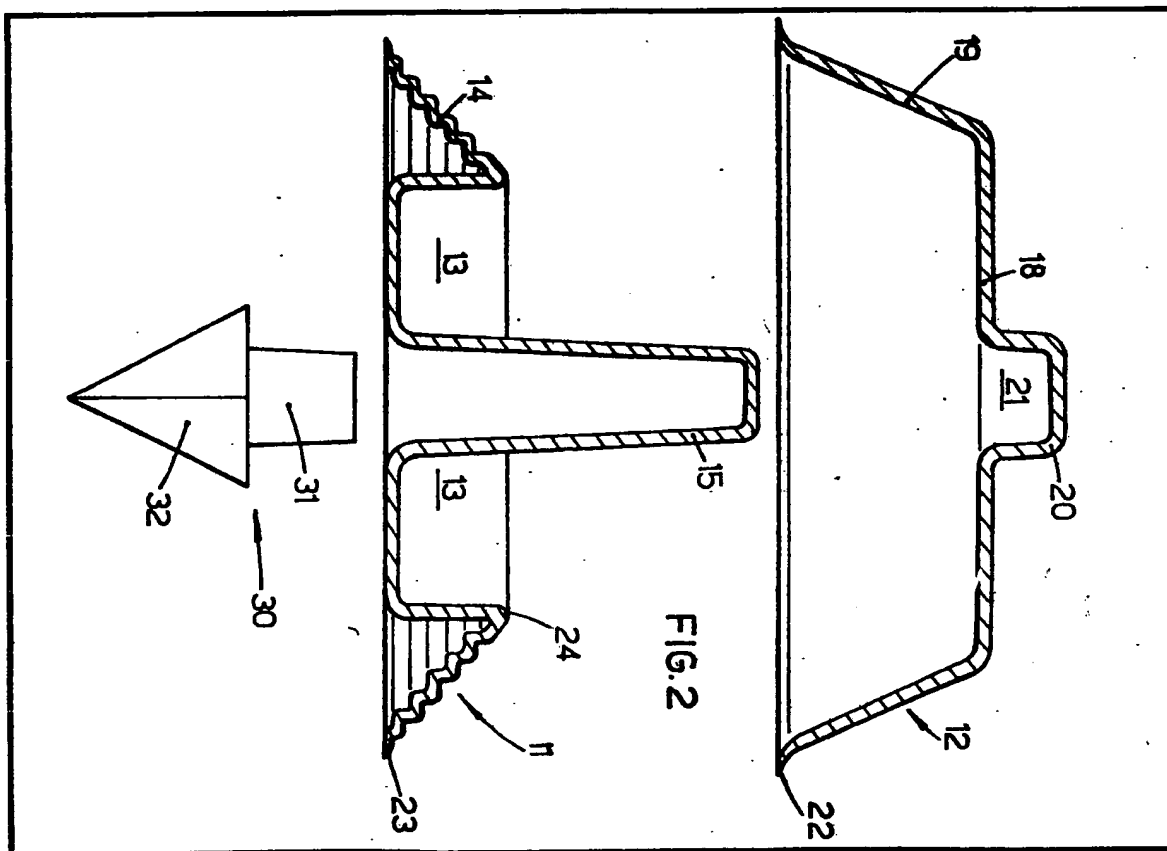
(72) Inventor
Alessandro Arrigoni

(74) Agents
Marks & Clerk

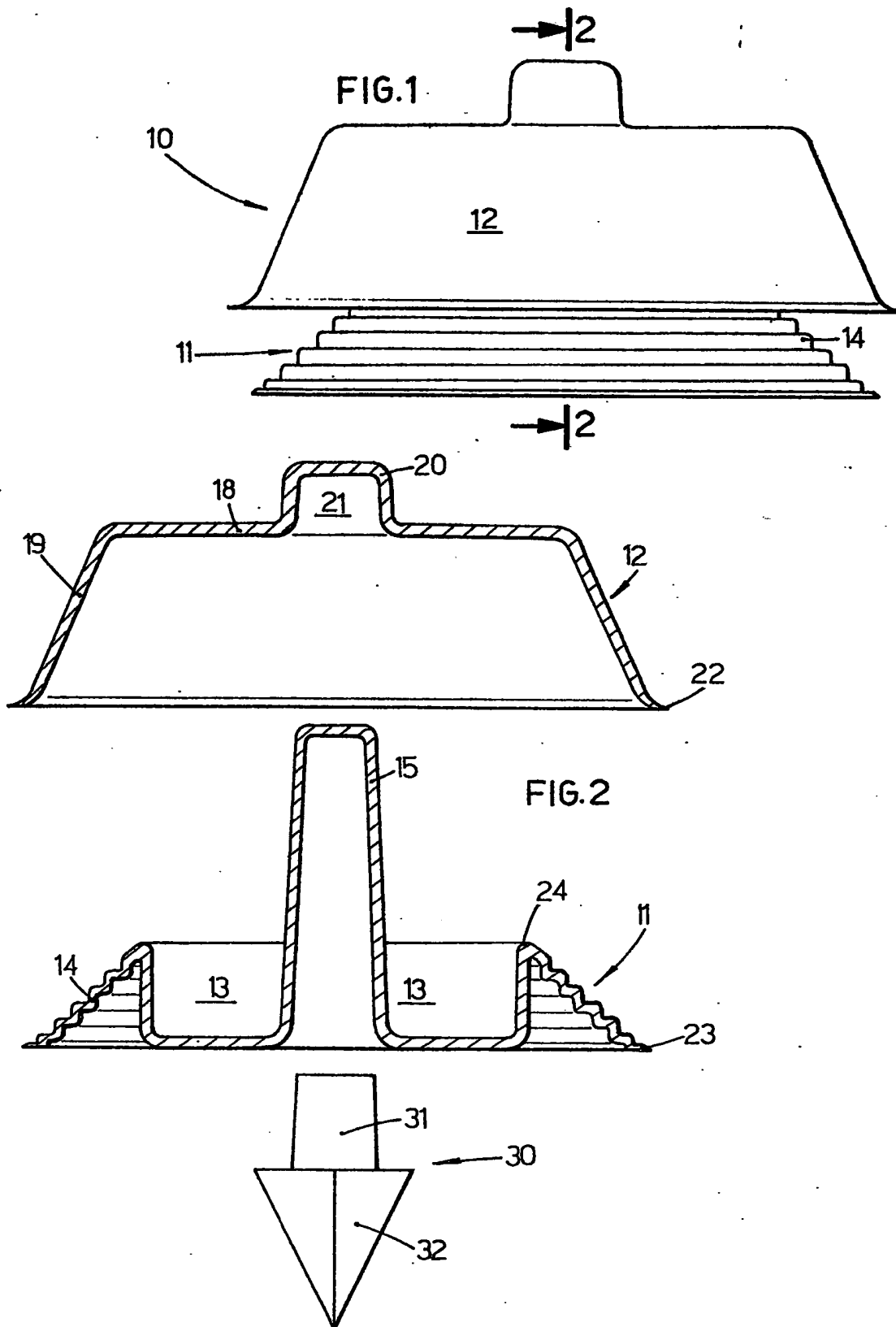
(54) A device for controlling rodents by poisoned bait

(57) A device for controlling rodents by means of poisoned bait comprises means for accommodating the bait, such as a body (11) formed with a tray (13) and an access ramp (14) thereto, and a protective cover (12) suitable to be placed on the body (11) at such a position as to leave sufficient access

to the bait, along the ramp (14), for the passage of rodents such as rats or mice, but preventing access to the bait of domestic animals and poultry.



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SPECIFICATION

A device for controlling rodents by poisoned bait

5 This invention relates to a device for controlling rodents, such as rats, mice and similar animals, by poisoned bait, while ensuring a high degree of safety to domestic animals and

10 poultry. Infestation by mice or rats or similar animals is a problem that for some time has taken increasingly serious aspects both in towns and country-sides.

15 Attempts have been made to get rid of or at least control the large number of mice or rats generally by distributing in the infested places poisoned baits, of which there are many very different types. However, this system suffers from the disadvantage that the baits are in the reach not only of mice and rats, but also of other animals, such as dogs, cats or poultry, which animals may be injured as a result of ingestion of such baits and also remove the

20 baits intended for the mice or rats. It is neither helpful nor expedient to partly cover the bait with stones or the like, that can be easily moved by, for example, a dog. The present invention provides a device for

30 controlling rodents by means of poisoned bait, comprising means for accommodating a bait, and a protective cover for the bait, applicable on the said means for accommodating the bait at such a position as to leave sufficient access

35 to the bait for the passage of rodents. Thus there is provided a device comprising means for accommodating a poisoned bait and a protective cover for application with respect to the ground or soil leaving a bait

40 access passage sufficient for the passage of mice or rats, but not sufficient for the passage of domestic animals or poultry.

In one preferred embodiment, the device

45 comprises a body to be placed on or fixed to the ground, and a cover that can be firmly but removably secured to the body. The body is formed with a part to accommodate a

poisoned bait, which part is generally in the form of a tray, and an access ramp to the

50 tray. Preferably, a generally hollow stem or shank projects upwards centrally of the tray possibly for allowing the disposition thereon of an annular bait. The cover is of sufficient dimensions to cover at least the tray and

55 preferably also the ramp, and is generally attached onto the stem at such a position as to be spaced from the body ramp by a distance just sufficient to form one or more passages for the entry of mice or rats. The

60 size of such a passage (or such passages) and the configuration there is such that access to the bait is inhibited to bigger animals, such as chickens, dogs and cats, or the introduction of a paw.

65 In another preferred embodiment, the de-

vice comprises a stem to be fixed on the ground, on which annular baits are slipped, and a cover which is firmly but removably secured to the stem. The cover is screw

70 threaded on the stem at such a position as to remain spaced apart from the ground by a distance just sufficient to form one or more passages for the entry of mice or rats. Due to the size and configuration thereof, this pas-

75 sage (or passages) are such as not to allow the entry of bigger animals or the introduction of a paw.

Therefore, the device according to the invention affords the elimination of mice or rats

80 without any danger to domestic animals. It also allows protection of the bait against the weather, so that the effectiveness of the bait is prolonged. Finally, it allows ready location of the bait, when the latter have to be re-

85 moved or replaced. Moreover, in a preferred embodiment, the device may be made of moulded plastics material, so as to be durable and economic to manufacture.

90 The invention will be further described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a side view of one embodiment of a device according to the invention for

95 controlling rodents; *Figure 2* is an axial sectional view of the device taken along the line 2-2 in Fig. 1, and exploded for clearer illustration; and

Figure 3 is an axial sectional view of

100 another embodiment of a device according to the invention. Figs. 1 and 2 show a device 10 for the control of mice or rats or similar animals which essentially comprises a body 11 and a

105 cover 12. The body 11 is formed with a generally tray-like portion 13 surrounded by an access ramp portion 14 and centrally having an upward extending projecting shank or stem

110 15. The stem 15 is circular in plan, while the tray 13 is annular and the ramp 14 completely surrounds the tray. However, other different forms are possible, such as square or

115 rectangular. Preferably, the ramp 14 has a generally smooth slope and is undulated or otherwise configured to facilitate upward movement. At the bottom the body 11 is flattened so as

120 to steadily bear on a planar surface, for example paved (cemented or tiled) ground. For fixing on loose ground, provision is made for a fastening element 30, comprising a part 31 suitable to be inserted in and retained in the hollow stem 15 and a point 32 to be driven into the ground.

The cover 12 has a substantially planar top portion 18 and an outer bell-like portion 19. At its centre, the position 18 has a protuber-

130 ance 20, internally forming a cavity 21, de-

signed to be of such dimensions as to tightly but removably engage on the upper end of the stem 15. The total dimensions of the cover 12 are preferably designed so that, when the cover 12 is mounted on the body 11, the outer edge 22 thereof at least slightly extends beyond the external extreme edge 23 of the ramp, and at an at least slightly lower level than the upper edge 24 of the ramp.

However, these dimensions may vary, it being sufficient that when mounted the cover has its portion 19 at such a vertical distance from the ramp that between the inner face of the cover and the ramp there remains a sufficient passage for a rat, for example, to pass (Fig. 1).

The device is used by placing a poisoned bait either in the tray 13 or about the stem 15, and then mounting the cover 12 on the body 11 and arranging the device on the pre-selected area. A rat, attracted by the bait, can readily pass along the passage between the cover and the ramp, reaching the tray so as to bite the bait. On the other hand, poultry or domestic animals cannot introduce their head into the device to reach the bait, because of the particularly complicated movement which would be involved, since the passage mouth or inlet is at ground level and because of the narrowness of the passage, and similarly dogs and cats cannot reach the bait with a paw.

Fig. 3 shows a device 50 which comprises a shank or stem 51 and a cover 52. The stem 51 comprises an elongate body 53, which at its upper end is provided with a thread 54 for engagement in an internal threaded portion of the cover 52. At its lower end the stem 51 is provided with a point 55 to be driven into the ground.

The elongate body 53 has clamped or otherwise secured thereon a stop member 56 of any convenient shape, for example annular, as shown in the drawing, which may be secured to the point 55 or slightly spaced apart therefrom, an upper smooth portion 56' of which serves as a bearing for disc-baits 57. A lower portion 56'' of the stop member 56 serves as bearing on the ground 58, in order to prevent undue penetration of the point 55 into the ground, and accordingly undue lowering of the cover 52 which would prevent the entry of for example rats.

The cover 52 has a top portion 59 which is substantially flat and a peripheral bell-like portion 60. At its centre, the portion 59 has a protuberance 61 which is internally threaded and adapted to screw down on the thread 54 of the stem 51. The device is used by slipping the annular baits 57 on the elongate body 53 and then screwing down the cover 52 and placing the device on the pre-selected area, or by first driving the stem 51 into the ground, arranging the baits thereon and then applying the cover 52. A rat, attracted by the bait, can readily creep beneath the cover 52, so as to bite the bait. On the other hand, poultry

cannot introduce its head into the device, due to the narrowness of the passage, and similarly dogs and cats cannot reach the bait with a paw.

The embodiments described above may be suitably made of moulded plastics material. It will be appreciated that the device according to the invention could be constructed differently from the embodiments described. For example, the cross-sectional shape of the cover may be any dome-like shape, and the engagement between the cover and stem, or between the cover and body, may be by means other than those described.

CLAIMS

1. A device for controlling rodents by means of poisoned bait, comprising means for accommodating a bait, and a protective cover for the bait, applicable on the said means for accommodating the bait at such a position as to leave sufficient access to the bait for the passage of rodents.

2. A device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the said bait accommodating means comprise a body formed with a tray and an access ramp thereto, the cover being suitable to be placed on the body and removably secured thereto at such a position as to leave, with respect to the body, one or more passages along the access ramp of suitable dimensions for the passage therethrough of a rodent.

3. A device as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the said body has a central stem projecting upwards from the tray bottom, the tray extending at least partly about the stem, and the cover having a portion for removably engaging on the stem.

4. A device as claimed in Claim 2 or 3, wherein at the bottom the device body has a substantially flat surface for bearing on the ground.

5. A device as claimed in any of Claims 2 to 4, wherein the access ramp is undulated along its upper surface to facilitate upward movement of a rodent.

6. A device as claimed in any of Claims 2 to 5, wherein the outer edge of the cover extends beyond the outer edge of the access ramp.

7. A device as claimed in any of Claims 1 to 6, further comprising means for applying the device to the ground.

8. A device as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the said ground application means is a pointed fastening element, a shank of which is adapted to be accommodated in a cavity of one of the cover or of the bait accommodating means.

9. A device as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the said bait accommodating means is a stem provided with a point suitable to be driven into the ground, and the cover is a bell-like cover suitable to engage on the upper end of the stem at such a position as to leave

between the bell edge and the ground one or more passages of suitable dimensions for the passage therethrough of a rodent.

10. A device as claimed in Claim 9,
5 wherein the lower portion of the stem has attached thereto a stop element for limiting the penetration of the point into the ground.

11. A device for controlling rodents by means of poisoned bait, substantially as herein described with reference to, and as shown
10 in, Figs. 1 and 2 or Fig. 3 of the accompanying drawings.

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